

Amendment 2166 - Sense of the Senate military small arms

The rifleman and the service rifle is the Army's primary weapon system and the very foundation of the Army.

Despite having upgraded almost every other piece of equipment carried by our soldier into battle over the past decade, our current small arms weapons are based on decades old designs, and despite three programs started to find a better service rifle for our troops (all cancelled prematurely), the Army lacks a coherent strategy for modernizing its most deployed weapon system, its small arms rifles and light machine gun inventories.

This amendment expresses the Sense of the Senate that the small arms and ammunition used by the United States Army should be superior to the small arms and ammunition used by potential threat nations, foreign allied militaries, and U.S. domestic law enforcement.

The United States continues to deploy brave men and women to combat with the same weapons that finished last in the Army's own 2007 reliability test. Army tests and analysis, including ballistic testing going back to World War I, show that the current 5.56mm ammunition that is the Army and NATO standard is not the ideal ammunition for our troops engaging targets greater than 300 meters as they are in Afghanistan.

We owe it to our brave men and women serving in uniform to ensure they have the very best in equipment, especially our small arms inventory.

America should always ensure that when our soldiers are sent to battle on behalf of the nation they go with the best small arms weapons and ammunition available.